

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Gregory Mann of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee have been fortunate through the years to have been served by those brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to carry out their duties; and

WHEREAS, Trooper John Gregory Mann of Nashville was one such outstanding law enforcement officer, and the members of this General Assembly were shocked and saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on January 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS, acting without hesitation or regard for his personal safety, Trooper Mann lost his life responding to a carjacking when both he and the offender, with whom he was struggling were struck by a hit-and-run driver; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Greg Mann had been a law enforcement officer for almost two decades; he was an officer in the Brownsville, Tennessee Police Force for two years and had served for 17 years with the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The citizens of Tennessee lost a dedicated and highly effective law enforcement officer with his death; and

WHEREAS, Greg Mann was born January 7, 1960, one of several children of Lollie and the late James W. Mann of Brownsville; he had a happy childhood filled with love and many good experiences with his extended family. As a child he enjoyed spending time with his grandmother, Lou Rena Mann, and spent numerous weekends on great fishing excursions with his brothers and his beloved great-uncle and great-aunt, Allen and Willie Tyus; and

WHEREAS, as a boy, he learned the intrinsic value of a hard day's work from his father, James Mann, by helping with the raising of cotton, okra and hogs; he also enjoyed riding horses and helping on his grandfather, Earl Beard's, farm; and

WHEREAS, Greg's early years included formal Sunday dinners at the home of his great-grandparents, William and Dollie Mann; he participated in Easter and Christmas programs at Woodlawn Baptist Church, where he sang in the Junior Choir, and he never missed Sunday School, nor did he ever miss an opportunity to ride with his siblings on the Church bus, driven by his cousin Corbin Brack; and

WHEREAS, Greg Mann enjoyed playing basketball with the boys in his neighborhood. At the same time, feeling an older brother's duties and responsibilities, he watched and protected his younger sisters, Charlotte and Dollie, from boys, reporting all his findings to his parents; and

WHEREAS, Greg acquired his first job at age 15, working as a grounds keeper for Mrs. Lerlee Willis; he participated in several extracurricular activities in high school, including membership in the Beta Club, the band, the G.A.P (Gentlemen Attitude Personality) Club, as well as serving as the high school basketball team's statistician; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Mann joined the United States Army in 1978 and served his country with distinction until 1982 when he was honorably discharged with the rank of SSgt. He also served for 22 years as a member the Tennessee Army National Guard, Battery B, 3rd/115th Field Artillery Battalion, based in Covington; and

WHEREAS, Greg Mann was active in numerous civic and professional organizations, most notably as a member of the Warfield Masonic Lodge #44, F. & A.M. Prince Hall Affiliate in Clarksville, Tennessee and the National Black State Troopers Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Mann enjoyed sports, both as a fan and as a participant; he was a strong supporter of the Tennessee State University Athletic Program, often serving as a uniformed escort for the coaching staff. He also was a basketball referee for 14 years for the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, Greg Mann loved outdoor activities and world travel; he visited several foreign countries, including Austria, on a recent mountain climbing trip; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Mann was deeply devoted to his family and was proud of their accomplishments; he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his mother, Greg Mann is survived by his daughter, Ashley Mann; his sister, Charlotte Mann; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Dolly and Robert Wells and Virtress and Jack Boatwright; his brothers, Officer Claude W. Mann, Detective Clifford W. Mann and Officer Clayton Mann; his grandfather, Earl Beard; and a host of devoted nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other extended family members; and

WHEREAS, Trooper John Gregory Mann leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity and valor in his public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should join all Tennesseans in remembering the bountiful life of this courageous officer and public servant, and exceptional human being, who gave his life in the cause of public safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of John Gregory Mann, recalling with affection his

impeccable character, unquestionable valor and his stalwart commitment to living an exemplary life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Trooper Mann.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.